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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/220,398	12/24/98	HARNEY	P VOV-003.02

025181
FOLEY, HOAG & ELIOT, LLP
PATENT GROUP
ONE POST OFFICE SQUARE
BOSTON MA 02109

HM12/0320

EXAMINER

RILEY, J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1656	18

DATE MAILED: 03/20/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action SummaryApplication No.
09/220,398

Applicant(s)

Harney

Examiner

Jezia Riley

Group Art Unit

1656

 Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jan 2, 2001 This action is **FINAL**. Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

 Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed. Claim(s) 1-42 is/are rejected. Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to. Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.**Application Papers** See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948. The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner. The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved. The specification is objected to by the Examiner. The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119** Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d). All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received. received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____. received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

 Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).**Attachment(s)** Notice of References Cited, PTO-892 Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____ Interview Summary, PTO-413 Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152**... SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ...**

DETAILED ACTION*Continued Prosecution Application*

1. The request filed on 3/20/01 for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 09/220,398 is acceptable and a CPA has been established. An action on the CPA follows.

Response to Remarks

2. Applicants' arguments and amendments, filed on 3/20/01, have been approved and entered. They have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive. Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from previous office actions are hereby withdrawn. The following rejections and/or objections are either newly applied or reiterated. They constitute the complete set presently being applied to the instant application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103 (a)

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103, the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103© and potential 35 U.S.C. § 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

4. Claims 1-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watson et al. (1992 "Recombinant DNA, Second Ed. Pp. 206-209) in view of Goodchild (Bioconjugate Chemistry, Vol. 1, pp. 165-187, May/June 1990, and Applicant's admissions and in further view of the 1988 Stratagene Catalog.

5. Applicants are having the argument that the references do not teach or suggest the present invention. This is not convincing because Watson teach that "the oligonucleotides are designed to so that each one anneals to two adjacent oligonucleotides". Watson also teaches different component categories such as structural genes or fragments of structural genes. "The domain that bound DNA", "Identifying a functional domain" page 207. Further, it is stated in page 209 col.2: "And the ability to operate on DNA lets us also change the structure of the products gene".

Double Patenting

6. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422

F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321© may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

7. Claims 1-42 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 78-94 of U.S. Patent No. 08/877,034. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because they are claiming common embodiments but not of the same scope.

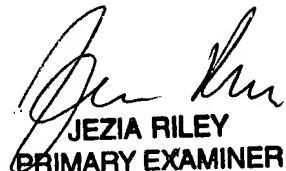
8. No claim is allowed.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jezia Riley whose telephone number is (703) 305-6855. The Examiner may normally be reached Monday through Friday, 0900 - 1700 EST. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Gary Jones, may be reached at (703) 308-1152.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group Receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Any necessary fax can be sent to (703) 308-4242.



JEZIA RILEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER